

The Phoenix Flier

The Yarm Preparatory School Newsletter

Issue 732—10th February 2023

INSIDE THIS WEEK...

A message from Mr Sawyer

Welcome to the Phoenix Flier which showcases life in the Prep School on a weekly basis. There has certainly been much on show in recent days. Year 6 took to the stage last week in indomitable style as part of our inaugural Drama Week. They were given five days to learn a number of songs, refine their acting skills, master a range of dances, write their own skits and then deliver a performance to a packed Prep Hall. It was a tough challenge and expectations were high. It is also fair to say that there were some initial apprehensions, but these soon dissipated as the pupils threw themselves into the workshops that were run by our visiting drama specialist, Alice Maenami. The excitement and enjoyment that the boys and girls were displaying by lunchtime on the first day was a good sign of what was to come. The end result was a total triumph in which collaboration, creativity and fun took centre stage. It was a joy to see the pupils perform with such energy and enthusiasm.

This week we have been thinking about Internet Safety. What is overwhelmingly apparent is that our children are spending more time online than they did a year ago and this trend is growing. It is therefore imperative that we are aware of the risks and know how to safeguard our children online. I hope the tips and advice in this newsletter and the links to our excellent school-wide resources of Parent Zone and Tooled Up Education are useful to you all.

Bill Sawyer

Head's Challenge:

I can be hot, I can be cold. I can run and I can be still. I can be hard and I can be soft. What am I?

Photo of the Week:

More from a fantastic Year 6 Drama Week can be found inside, including thoughts from the children.



Tooled Up Education

You might well be aware that it is **Children's Mental Health Week** and that this year's theme is 'Let's Connect'. Thinking about how we connect with others and ways that we can proactively improve our wellbeing are important which is why we've created an activity [resource](#) on making connections, created for both children and adults. This resource also contains lots of links to other relevant resources.

In other news, we're very proud to announce our first ever [Tooled Up conference](#). Tooled Up and Riverston School are joining together to host: "Support for Children with Autism: An Exploration of Practical and Evidence-Based Ideas for Parents and Educators" on Friday 21st April 2023.

This free, online event is aimed at parents and educators across our Tooled Up School community. Attendees can look forward to a range of talks and short presentations from brilliant speakers like [Dr Mary Hanley and Professor Debbie Riby](#) who will be demonstrating their free "Triple A Training" for schools, which focuses on the impact of sensory classroom features on engagement, and [Dr Felicity Sedgewick](#) who will be presenting her research on masking. [Louis Camilleri](#) will showcase his free app that can help parents/educators write social stories as well as other fantastic speakers. Attendees can expect to learn more about research evidence and get lots of practical tips that they can 'try and apply' in their everyday parenting or educational practice. Click [here](#) to register your place.

The Tooled Up library is already packed with almost 350 evidence-based resources, including interviews with over 80 leading experts from around the world. But, it's your library and we want to know how else we can help you? What new resources would you like to see? Which ones do you love? What could we do better? We always value your feedback and want to ensure that we are giving you the resources that you need. Email us at research@tooledupeducation.com to let us know how we are doing!

Do you have any burning parenting questions? Did you know that Dr Weston will answer any parenting question that you ask? Have a peek at this week's parenting question on the front page of the [Tooled Up Education](#) site. If you have a question, why not submit it? All questions are treated anonymously and we promise we will answer.

A quick reminder As a parent at a Tooled Up school, you have full unlimited access to the Tooled Up library. If you have not created your account yet, click [here to register for an account](#). It takes less than 2 minutes to enter your details and unique school PIN: YPS1103 and if you need assistance, we are always happy to help at support@tooledupeducation.com. If you already have an account and you have forgotten your password, then simply click on any of the resource links above, click "Lost your password" and follow the instructions.

Dr Kathy Weston



Let's Connect for
Children's Mental
Health Week



Support for
Children with
Autism: An
Exploration of
Practical and
Evidence-Based
Ideas for Parents
and Educators

Year 6 Drama Week

Last week was Year 6 Drama Week. We did many different activities including singing, dancing and acting. On the first day, we played a game to improve our team building skills and get used to acting. We then moved on to dances and songs from 1920 to 2023. The performance was on Friday and we enjoyed it, creating an engaging story line in which a reluctant music class travels through time. My favourite scene was when the 6W boys acted as The Beatles and created a song, the song we were about to sing! They created a comical atmosphere because the song was created by a super fan!

Akansha M.

I loved the Drama week as we got to be creative about what we did like the war images. It was great that everyone put lots of effort in and there was fabulous teamwork.

Monty v N.

Last week Year 6 combined their skills to perform a show at the end of the week. To make the show we had to: learn songs (Waterloo, Spice Up Your Life and lots more), dances (Charleston, disco and more). My favourite part was the final performance, especially when Alex was Scary Spice.

Olivia J.

During Drama Week, we learnt dances, songs and scenes for a showcase for parents over the course of a week. We really enjoyed doing it and say thanks to Alice for all of her inspiration. The performance was called Music through the Decades and it was fun to put the show together as a year group.

Alex W.

I thoroughly enjoyed dancing to Thriller by Michael Jackson and we were able to express emotions in the WW2 freeze-frames showing fear, sadness and anger.

Thomas F.

I found Drama Week really fun and I loved the dance routines. My favourite part was when we finally performed the show to the parents on Friday night.

Emma A.

Drama Week was a wonderful experience for the parents and students alike, while the parents waited for the performance on Friday all of Year 6 practised our songs, dances and scenes, featuring The Beatles, Michael Jackson, Elvis Presley and many other legendary artists from the past and present. Everyone shone in the final performance, showing the talent that everyone has inside. The lights, dances and great singing blew the parents away bringing the week to a wonderful end.

Samuel E.

I found Drama Week really fun! Especially all of the dancing





and I was really happy when we got chosen to do the Elvis dance. I also enjoyed doing the performance at the end.

Daisy N.

I loved Drama Week because we enjoyed different and I got to express myself a lot. I also enjoyed the role of Michael Jackson and I loved the singing we did.

Noah A.

I was apprehensive for Drama Week because we weren't doing an actual play but when we began rehearsing it was SO FUN! I loved the songs, the scenes and especially the dances.

Dora B.

I absolutely loved Drama Week because you could learn so many new skills and gain so much more confidence whilst having the time of your life. Alice was really good too.

Seth T.

My favourite part of Drama Week was dancing because we showed the audience all of our amazing dance moves.

Jess F.



PE and Games News

A lovely afternoon of netball v Pocklington on Friday with our U10's travelling away and the U11's at home. This week is very busy again with all girls in year 5 and 6 playing St Peters in their final matches of the half term.

Mrs Redhead-Sweeney

Under 11 Netball v Pocklington

We really enjoyed going down to the paddock to play netball against Pocklington. I think my team had great communication and worked really well as a team. Miss Cottrell umpired our game and our subs switched off and on. We won 23 - 9 and Sumi K. got player of the match. We all ate our cookies with Pock at the end and we said good by and headed back to the Prep.

Violet M.

We really enjoyed going down to the Senior School paddock. We played Pocklington and our team worked really well as a team. Miss Whitehouse was umpiring our game and each quarter two subs switched on. My team won 25-0 and Daisy N. got player of the match.

Amelie K.

Under 10 Hockey

Another great afternoon of Hockey for the U10 boys against Pocklington School. The boys have grown in confidence with each game. Their decision making is becoming more decisive and they are becoming more clinical in front of goal. Well done all.

Mr Simpson



We have a huge and varied stock of preloved uniform available.

Boys & Girls Blazers
Coats & Cagoules
Hats
Summer uniform
Winter Uniform
Games Kit Items
PE kit Items

From Nursery through to Year 6.

Prices start from £1!

If you are looking to add to your uniform wardrobe or simply want a few spares, visit our website www.ypssc.co.uk or scan the QR code below to complete a stock check/order form.

All clean and reusable donations of outgrown uniform are welcome too- just bag them up and either pass them on to a committee member or drop them at Prep reception.



Thank you!



Internet Safety Week

In the Safety Assembly we learned about cyberbullying and how to stop it happening. We learned that if you get bullied online you should always tell a trusted adult. To stop online bullying you should tell a trusted adult and always be kind and respectful. We thought about what it would be like if the internet was turned off completely for a day. It was really fun and everyone learned something new.

Annabelle A.

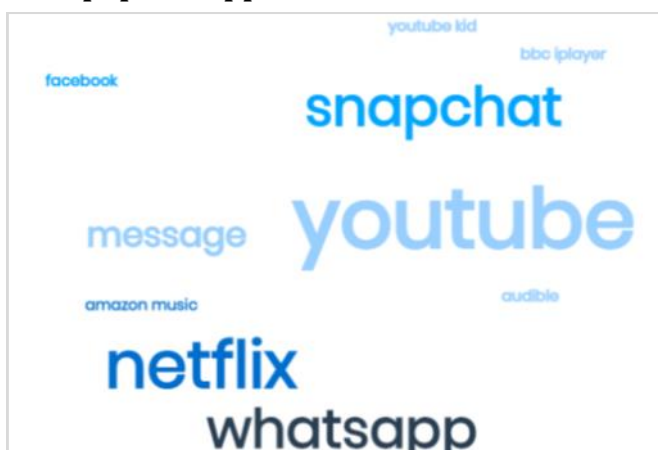
As part of *Safer Internet Day*, we organised a survey to see what children across Teesside are getting up to online. Over 400 children from eight primary schools—including ours—took part!

Most popular games:



Minecraft and **Roblox** continue to be the most popular games among children aged 7-11. The children enjoy playing, socialising and creating on both of these games but, as we discuss in our computing and PSHE lessons, there are pitfalls to be wary of. It is also worth noting that two of the more popular games played, **Call of Duty** and **Star Wars Battlefront** have PEGI ratings of 18 and 16 respectively primarily due to the violence contained within the games.

Most popular apps:



A slew of popular apps among our children have age ratings that are specifically geared towards teenagers/adults.

YouTube is undoubtedly the most popular app and it is interesting to hear from the children that they use the normal version as opposed to YouTube Kids, which is more geared towards different age ranges with its curated playlists and moderated content.

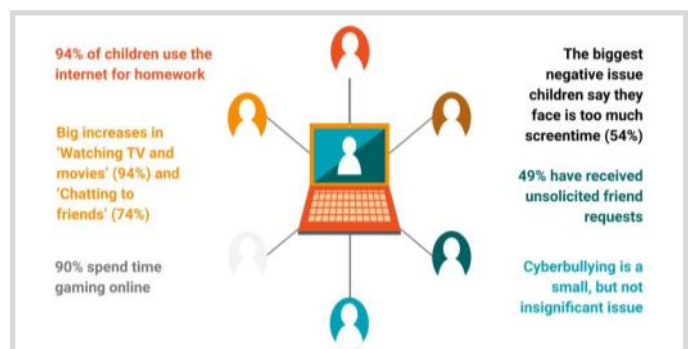


TOP TIP: Parents can moderate what their children can see and access on YouTube by using [Restricted Mode](#). This blocks inappropriate videos, as well as disabling the comments section.

Snapchat is clearly popular too, particularly with children in Years 5-6. As with most social media apps, the minimum age of use is 13—and it is there for a reason. [There are a number of features parents can use](#) with their children to make their experience on this app safer. **WhatsApp**—which requires users to be aged 16 plus—also has a range of features to make the user experience safer.

The key point to consider though is that these apps have minimum age requirements for a reason. There are plenty of risks young children face online, at an age when they feel empowered and will take risks.

Further findings:



Some of the key statistics that came out of the pupil survey can be seen on the slide above. All of these saw an increase on previous years. It is worth spending some time discussing these with your children.

Mr Stone

All Yarm School families can join Parent Zone's **Digital Schools programme**, giving you access to stacks of resources and training about what children getting up to online. [Click here for full details.](#)

Parent Handbooks

You can access the parent handbooks on the school website [by clicking here](#). At various points over the coming weeks, we will post some reminders and key pieces of information from the handbook.

Music lessons

If your child is in Years 3-6 and is interested in taking part in individual peripatetic music lessons, [please fill in this form and Mr Gooding will get back to you](#).

Term Dates 2022/23

Spring 2023—Thursday 5th January—Friday 31st March 2023
(Half-term: Friday 17th—Sunday 26th February inclusive).

Summer 2023—Thursday 20th April— Friday 7th July 2023
(Half-term: Saturday 27th May—Sunday 4th June inclusive).

STEAM Week HELP!

We will be launching our 'Green' STEAM week on Friday 11th February. This year the theme is about looking after the environment, climate change and sustainability. Children will be taking part in a variety of challenges and workshops. We will be welcoming Sofia Windfarm, Climate Action Middlesbrough, the Royal Institution and the Tees Valley River Trust to school, amongst others. We would appreciate your help in making the week a success. Please could we ask for donations of:

- Lots of brown cardboard boxes

- Lots of pre-loved clothing or old fabric/ tablecloths/sheets/curtains etc.
- Small empty clear plastic drinks bottles
- Plastic bags
- Bottle tops
- Juice cartons like this:



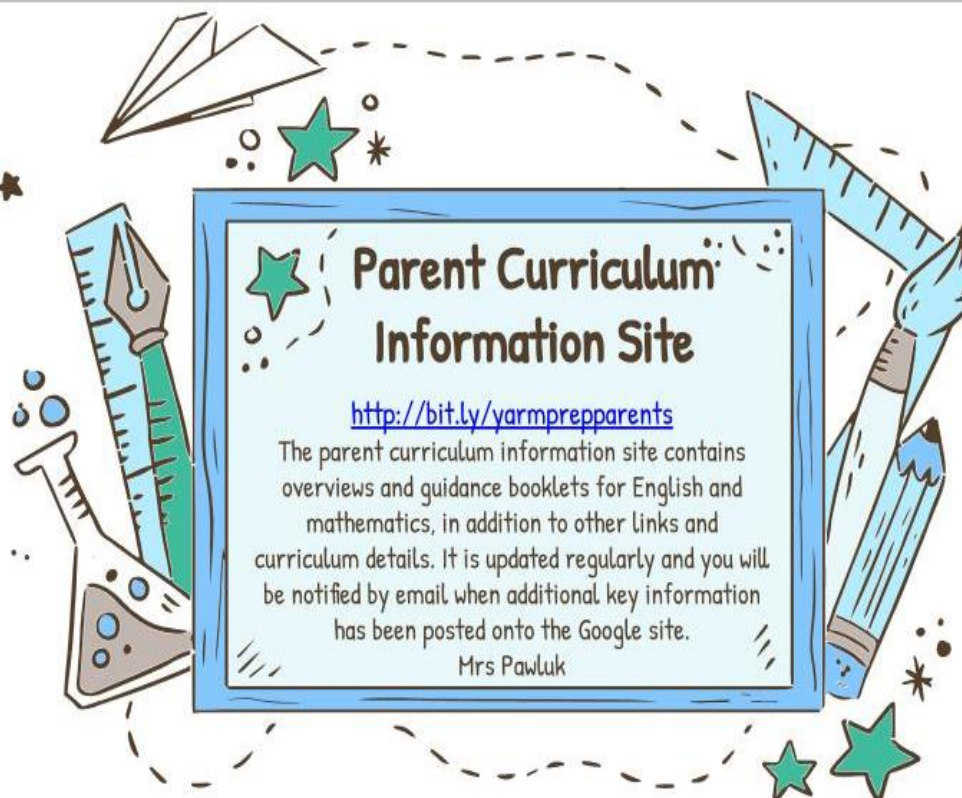
Many thanks for your support.

Miss Ward

Crazy Crafts

Year 4 crazy crafters with their recent creations! Paper boxes and painted plant pots.

Mrs Arrol



At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many issues which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

Tips for Encouraging Open Discussions about DIGITAL LIVES

The online world is an entirely familiar and commonplace part of life for today's children and young people, far more so than for previous generations. There are many positives to children being able to access online materials, so it's important not to demonise the internet, games and apps, and limit the benefit of their positive aspects. At the same time, we do have a responsibility to educate children about the hazards they may encounter online (just as we would about real-world dangers) so it's essential that we don't shy away from talking to them about the complex – and often sensitive – subject of what they do and what they see when they're online.

Here are some suggestions for kicking off conversations with your child about their digital life ...

MAKE YOUR INTEREST CLEAR

Showing enthusiasm when you broach the subject signals to your child that you're keen to learn about the positives of their online world. Most children enjoy educating adults and will happily chat about what they use the internet for, or what games and apps they're into, and how these work. Asking to see their favourite games and apps in action could help you spot any aspects that may need your attention – such as chat functions which might require a settings adjustment to limit contact with strangers. Keep listening even if your child pauses for a long time; they could be considering how to phrase something specific, or they may be gauging your reaction.

BE OPEN AND HONEST, APPROPRIATE TO THEIR AGE

At various stages, children and young people become curious about puberty and how their body changes; about relationships; about how babies are made; and about sexual health. If your child knows that they can discuss these sensitive subjects with you, they tend to be less likely to go looking online for answers – which can often provide them with misleading information and, in some cases, lead to them consuming harmful content. Don't worry if you don't immediately know the answers to their questions – just find out for yourself and go back to them once you have the facts.

REMIND YOUR CHILD THEY CAN ALWAYS TALK TO YOU

In my role I work with many children and young people who admit being reluctant to tell a trusted adult about harmful content they've viewed online, in case it leads to having their devices confiscated. Emphasise to your child that you're always there to listen and help; reassure them that if they do view harmful content, then they are not to blame – but talking about it openly will help. Children shouldn't be expected to be resilient against abuse or feel that it's their job to prevent it.

KEEP TALKING!

The most valuable advice we can give is to keep talking with your child about their digital lives. You could try using everyday situations to ask questions about their online experiences.

DISCUSS THAT NOT EVERYTHING WE SEE ONLINE IS REAL

Here, you could give examples from your own digital life of the online world versus reality – for example, those Instagram posts which show the perfect house: spotlessly clean, never messy and immaculately decorated. Explain to your child that there are many other aspects of the online world which are also deliberately presented in an unrealistic way for affect – such as someone's relationship, their body, having perfect skin and so on.

TRY TO REMAIN CALM

As much as possible, try to stay calm even if your child tells you about an online experience that makes you feel angry or fearful. Our immediate emotions frequently influence the way we talk, so it's possible that your initial reaction as a parent or carer could deter a child from speaking openly about what they've seen. Give yourself time to consider the right approach, and perhaps speak with other family members or school staff while you are considering your next steps.

CREATE A 'FAMILY AGREEMENT'

Involving your whole household in coming up with a family agreement about device use can be immensely beneficial. You could discuss when (and for how long) it's OK to use phones, tablets, consoles and so on at home; what parental controls are for and why they're important; and why it's good to talk to each other about things we've seen or experienced online (both good and bad). Explaining your reasoning will help children to understand that, as trusted adults, we want to make sure they are well informed and kept safe. Allowing children to have their say when coming up with your family agreement also makes them far more likely to stick to it in the long term.

Meet Our Expert

Rebecca Jennings of RAISE (Raising Awareness in Sex Education) has almost 20 years' experience delivering relationships and sex education and training to schools, colleges and other education providers. A published author on the subject, she also advises the Department of Education on the staff-training element of the RSE curriculum.



NOS National Online Safety®
#WakeUpWednesday

Key Dates

FEBRUARY 2023

Sun 12	Y6 Group to Twickenham for 6 Nations Match
Mon 13	STEAM WEEK Sofia Windfarm workshop for Year 5
Wed 15	Royal Institute Science talk (Y3-6) Prep Duologues launched In2Hockey Boys' County Round (Home; 3pm) U10/11 Girls; Rugby v Dame Allan's (Green Lane; 3pm)
Thu 16	Half-term begins (after school) After School Care as usual
Mon 27	Pupils return Y6 girls to Nissan Skills Foundation (all day)
Tue 28	House Pancake Races Jeans for Genes Day School Council (1pm) U8 Netball & Hockey with Ashville (away; 2.15pm start, 5pm return)

MARCH 2023

Wed 1	HMC Football & Netball (at Hymers School; 11am start, 5pm return)
Thu 2	World Book Day (children in fancy dress) In2Hockey North-East Finals (TBC)
Fri 3	U10/11 Netball v Cundall Manor (home; 2.15pm start) U11 Hockey v St Peter's (home; 2.15pm start) U10 Hockey v St Peter's (away; 2.15pm start, 4.30pm return)
Sat 4	UK Chess Challenge—School Round (Prep Hall; 9.30am start, 2.30pm finish)
Mon 6	6G/6W to Murton Park (5pm return)
Tue 7	6H/6L to Murton Park (5pm return) Year 1 trip to National Navy Museum

Curiosity Emporium (1pm)
Wed 8 Informal Concert (4-5pm; Prep Hall)
U11 Mowden Sevens
(away; 1.30pm start, 5pm return)
Nursery Holi Colour Run

Thu 9 U9 Football v DCSF
(away; 2pm start, 4.30pm return)

Fri 10 U11 Hockey v Dame Allan's
(home; 2pm start)

Mon 13 LCM examinations week
House Chess—Matchday 1

Tue 14 Telford Charity Morning
Y5 London trip—Zoom meeting for parents
(email gns@yarmschool.org for details)
Y1 Stay and Play (8.40-9.30am)
U8 Football v DCSF
(away; 2pm start, 4.15pm return)

[You can find the Yarm School calendar by clicking here](#)

Solution to previous Head's Challenge:

An asteroid

Celebration Assembly

	Values	Endeavour
3B	Henry F.	Monty B.
3H	Felix M.	Annabelle A.
4G	Martha L.	Jack A.
4J	Manha A.	Sophia B.
4N	Kaiden G.	Marianne D.
5F	Harrison W.	Joseph A.
5H	Yasmeen S.	Oliver B.
5K	Amelia C.	Laurel G.
6G	Jessica F.	Felicity L.
6H	Jack S.	Griff W.
6L	Daisy N.	Ethan C.
6W	Annabelle A.	Akansha M.

Head Teacher Awards:

Year 5: Rebecca N., Samuel I.

Year 6: Rehan K. Miguel RM.